

“MILK RUN”

Oregon Chapter 8th Air Force Historical Society
History News for October / November 2013



History News → Readers, where's your story?

Oregon 8th AFHS Chapter News and how to share YOUR history with others through our 8th AFHS Chapter is on the last page.

New Zenith Press Book from Robert F. Dorr in October

[Fighting Hitler's Jets](#) will arrive in our warehouse October 15 and in stores November 15. While other books have looked at the air war in Europe, none has interwoven the Third Reich's development of jet aircraft with the experiences of the American who fought these jets. This narrative begins with the untold story of a display of technology held for an audience of one, Adolf Hitler, on November 26, 1943. *Fighting Hitler's Jets* takes us into the lives and experiences of men on both sides, beginning with Pearl Harbor and continuing to air battles fought in the cold high blue above Hitler's Germany.

[Editor's Note: Walter Groce, who died last year and was a member of our Oregon 8th AFHS, was the first pilot to get a good video of a 262 – he shot it down in an inverted head-on pass. He had his original gun camera film and was I able to borrow it and transfer all his footage to digital before he died. His whole 262 engagement was 1 ¼ seconds in length. He got it November 1, 1944. (PS: Some P-51 pilot also claimed it, though from that gun camera film you can tell he never was even close to it. The 8th HQ then split the credit between the two of them.)

Robert F. Dorr, author of "Mission to Berlin," a history of Eighth Air Force B-17 Flying Fortress crews, wanted "Milk Run" readers to know that they can get signed, first-edition copies of his book — which one reviewer called "'Band of Brothers' with Planes" — at a 45% discount plus postage. The book has a retail price of \$28 not counting packaging and shipping; get it from Bob for \$19, including packaging and shipping. Bob makes his books available on a not-for-profit basis and donates proceeds to charity. If you want one or more signed copies of this character-driven narrative history, contact Bob at (703) 264-8950 or robert.f.dorr@cox.net. Bob told us that he wishes people would pick up the phone more often, so don't hesitate to call him.

US Team Visited Crash Site in Agartala India

A three member team went to India in September to visit known crash sites – plus research other information about another crash after the war.

http://articles.timesofindia.indiatimes.com/2013-09-08/india/41873062_1_recovery-mission-plane-crash-sites

Air Vice Marshall Staton's Medals to Be Auctioned Off

Joining the RFC – Royal Flying Corps before it became the Royal Air Force – he shot down 25 German aircraft in World War I. He was still on active duty and fought in WW II before he was captured by the Japanese in Java.

He is credited with the initial creation of the "Pathfinder" force for RAF Bomber command.

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2412149/Medal-collection-air-ace-flew-BOTH-world-wars-goes-sale-80-000.html>

Capt Lee Roy Gudgel WW II Effects donated to *Planes of Fame Air Museum*

Capt Gudgel never got to flew combat – he was instead assigned to train P-38 Lighting pilots who were going to see combat. His daughter came across all his WW II era uniforms, records, awards and the life stories of the pilots he trained, and donated them to the Planes Of Fame Museum in Arizona.

"It takes a lot of skill, knowledge and patience to be an instructor pilot. It is very rare to run across anybody who was an instructor pilot."

www.dcourier.com/main.asp?SectionID=1&SubsectionID=1&ArticleID=123025

A Flying Hurricane Mk IV

Flying in Canada, it is one of a very few Hawker Hurricanes left in in the world – and the only Mk IV that flies. It visited New Brunswick Canada to honor the 5 pilots from there that died during the Battle of Britain.

<http://atlantic.ctvnews.ca/rare-hawker-hurricane-lands-in-saint-john-for-special-ceremony-1.1447150>

War of 1812 Caulk's Field – A Rare American Victory

Like the Revolutionary War, a lot of battles were fought by local militia, and the British utterly thought that these "citizen soldiers" could never stand up to British Regulars. This is one battle that proved them wrong – when lead with the right leadership.

http://www.myeasternshoremid.com/news/article_4b59d54e-8687-5211-9ec9-230c4998b90d.html

Spanish American War – Another War Fought Mainly with Militia (National Guard Units)

During the Spanish American War the US Army was so small, that all the National Guard Units (State Militias) were Federalized and went into combat – both in Cuba and in the Philippines.

The Minnesota and Oregon Units were sent to take Manila – and then afterwards fought during the Philippine Insurrection.

The 13th Minnesota was under command of Brigadier General Arthur MacArthur.

<http://www.minnpost.com/mnopedia/2013/08/thirteenth-minnesota-and-battle-manila>

The Non-Teachings Of WW II History

The USA is not the only place where WW II history is not taught. In Taipei Taiwan, they skip right over the causes, effects, and aftermath of World War II in teaching people history. This is especially true of the “Burma Campaign” from 1942 thru 1945 to prevent the fall of India and to keep supplies flowing into China.

www.taipetimes.com/News/taiwan/archives/2013/09/19/2003572504

Sold at an Estate Sale, put up onto eBay, then then bought by the Museum

The WW I and WW II veteran’s medals et al was sold to a person who worked for a “private collector” who stated that it would not be broken up, then promptly turned around and posted it on eBay.

A local museum did a fundraiser to get enough money to ensure that they won the bid.

<http://www.timescolonist.com/news/museum-rescues-veteran-s-war-medals-1.592478>

An Ipswich’s Wall and Chimney – Looks are Deceiving

A wall and chimney which was destroyed in order to build a bypass (like something out of “The Hitchhiker’s Guide to the Galaxy”) were really memorials to WW II and to a soldier from the Boer War.

<http://www.gympietimes.com.au/news/ipswichs-wartime-heritage-bulldozed-main-roads-mix/1996421/>

Cambridge Military Hospital – Boer War to Crumbling Away

What was once a state of the art place to treat wounded soldiers, is now abandoned and crumbling away.

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2419814/Images-crumbling-buildings-soldiers-Somme-treated.html>

A 4,000 Pound “Cookie” Discovered in Dortmund

Most of the western part of the city of Dortmund was evacuated while the German UXB crew – Unexploded Bomb – defused this WW II era bomb.

The British dropped 4,000 aerial concussion bombs during the nighttime raids against German cities to shatter and blast away the tile roofs of buildings – so that the following planes could then drop incendiaries and burn down all the buildings; and if lucky destroy factories at the same time. Usually factories were nowhere near housing and thus they just mainly destroyed houses and commercial shops and never hit any major war production facilities. Burning out cities did cause disruption to by diverting resources to manage the damage, and by destroying very small sub-contractors like small machine shops in cities. The major disruption was to force the Luftwaffe to create a night fighter force, (1,250 + aircraft at its peak), a sophisticated radar net, support troops and factories, to coordinate the interception while using hundreds of thousands of personnel to support Anti-Aircraft units throughout Germany.

http://helenair.com/news/world/europe/germany-huge-wwii-bomb-forces-mass-evacuation/article_81c8ed9d-f2ad-5d28-9688-7855f92c41e9.html

Oregon Chapter News

Local Area News

Next General Membership Meeting for Oregon 8th AFHS is November 2, 2013

Previous PROGRAM: Frank LaSage “Save The PT Boat”

http://www.warboats.org/pt_658.htm

For those who missed the program you can watch it on DVD. All programs are videotaped and transcribed and put into our archive. You can purchase the DVD for \$10.00.

There is no cost to attend the meeting and it is open to the public.

Oregon Chapter Executive Board Meetings

All members can attend any Executive board meeting. The Board meets at the Elks Lodge three Saturdays before the regular membership meeting. If you can spare up to 2 hours between 10 AM and Noon you can also join the board and help make our chapter a continuing success.

Send Stories and documents to be Borrowed / Archived

If you have items that you wish to share with others, they can be loaned to the Oregon Chapter, scanned and catalogued and then returned to you. You can always donate them permanently to the chapter if you wish. Contact Tom Philo to make arrangements for the documents.

Items in the archive are usually be posted onto the web site (see release form on web site) so that everyone can learn from what others have experienced.

Oregon Chapter 8th AFHS

If you wish to be removed from the e-mail list please let us know.

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